

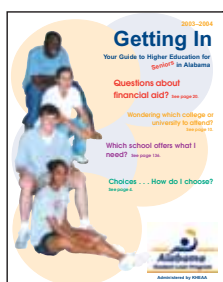


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COUNSELOR CONNECTION

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What's New? 2003-2004 *Getting In*-In Color



The Alabama Student Loan Program-KHEAA is proud to announce the new, color version of *Getting In*.

Getting In has retained all the qualities that has made it such a help for students

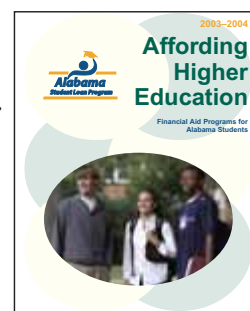
preparing for college but is now in color and written in a more student-friendly manner.

This publication is being sent directly to counselors for distribution to students. We ask that you distribute to all students, not just those who are college-bound.

If you need additional copies of either of these publications, you may contact Lora Kiser at the Alabama Student Loan Program-KHEAA address or number on the front page. These publications will also be available on the Alabama Student Loan Program-KHEAA website, www.alstudentaid.com.

The Alabama Student Loan Program-KHEAA Announces New Publication

The Alabama Student Loan Program-KHEAA announces a new Alabama publication . . . *Affording Higher Education*.



This publication contains some 4,000 financial aid programs available to Alabama students. Included are financial aid sources from organizations, companies, schools, and the state and federal government.

Your copy of *Affording Higher Education* will be coming soon. These publications are not distributed to students but will be available at high school and public libraries, financial aid offices, and of course high school counselor offices.

Posters and Web Sites . . . Good Ways to Promote Higher Education

Included with this *Counselor Connection* is a poster promoting *Getting In*.

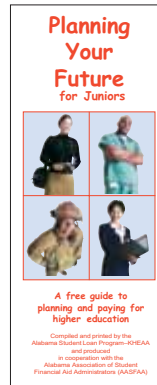
Please display this poster where it will catch your students' eyes.

Your students can find a lot of financial aid information, as well as link to several other sites, on our Web site—www.alstudentaid.com. If your school's Web site isn't linked to ours, please ask your technology coordinator to set up a link to the Alabama Student Loan Program-KHEAA.



What Else Is New?

Planning Your Future for Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors brochures are now in production and should be available shortly. These brochures provide valuable information to your students to help them prepare for college, starting from their first year of high school. Although not as comprehensive as *Getting In*, these are valuable resources to help your underclassmen achieve their college goals.



WARN

YOUR STUDENTS ABOUT FINANCIAL AID SCAMS

Make sure that your students are aware that there are companies who will try to entice students and their parents to pay for financial aid help that can be obtained for free.

The Federal Trade Commission warns students to be wary of scholarship search companies that make any of these claims:

- “You’ve been selected by a national foundation to receive a scholarship.”
- “We’ll do all the work.”
- “The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back.”
- “You can’t get this information anywhere else.”

Getting In contains tips on how to avoid being scammed by a fraudulent scholarship search company, as well as information on how to conduct a financial aid search for free. *Getting In* also lists websites that offer free information about college, financial aid and career planning.

Checklist for College-Bound Seniors

You might want to pass this information to your seniors. It will help them stay on track in their college preparation.

August/September

- ☐ Review your high school transcript. Will you meet all graduation and college entrance requirements?
- ☐ Narrow your list of schools; request catalogues and admissions information.
- ☐ Register for October SAT and/or ACT.
- ☐ Sign up for ACT or SAT prep courses.

October

- ☐ Review admissions applications; begin writing essays.
- ☐ Meet with college admissions representatives or schedule visits to schools you are interested in attending. Talk with students and staff.
- ☐ Register for December ACT and/or SAT.
- ☐ Attend college fairs and financial aid nights.
- ☐ Request recommendations from teachers, employers and guidance counselors.
- ☐ If applying for Early Decision, send in application.

November

- ☐ If you haven't already, register for the December ACT and/or SAT.
- ☐ Watch for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available from your high school counselor, financial aid office of the school you plan to attend or www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- ☐ Continue to work on application essays.
- ☐ Begin preparing your college application.
- ☐ Watch scholarship deadlines.

December

- ☐ Register for January SAT and/or February ACT.
- ☐ Finalize application essays and complete the admissions procedures for your top school choices.
- ☐ Remind your references of application deadlines. Send thank you notes to these people.
- ☐ Mail all applications or turn them in to your high school, depending on the system your school uses.
- ☐ Keep copies of all admissions applications.